



Marine Safety Information Bulletin 30-02
Security Zones for
Tank Vessels and Other Specially Designated Vessels
October 16, 2002

1. In response to national intelligence suggestive of potential threats to U.S. economic interests, the Eighth Coast Guard District Commander in New Orleans has implemented security zones around tank vessels of 70,000 dead weight tons (DWT) or greater, and other specially designated vessels during transfer of cargoes or bunkering. An advance copy of this rule is available at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/docs/Final%20Security%20Zones%20Rule.pdf>. This rule applies in all waters within the Eighth CG District including the Ports of Houston, Galveston, Texas City, and Freeport, and extends offshore to 12 nautical miles.

Previously announced security zones, as defined in MSIB 31-01, remain in place for the following areas: Houston Ship Channel West of Carpenters Bayou, Morgan's Point, Bayport, Texas City, and Freeport. Security enforcement will continue as before within these regulated zones, which are off-limits to non-commercial activities. Details are provided at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/index.htm>.

In port areas and anchorages not within these previously designated zones, individual security zones will be initiated for each tank vessel 70,000 DWT or greater and other specially designated vessels by the COTP while transferring cargo or bunkering, as follows:

- 1) No persons or vessels may enter within 100 yards of the vessel, unless express permission is obtained from the COTP.
- 2) If the 100 yard security zone extends into the navigable channel, vessels which can only safely navigate within the navigable channel may continue on their transit provided they proceed at minimum speed to maintain course while within 100 yards of the protected vessel. Vessels which can safely transit outside of the 100 yard zone are required to make appropriate course changes, unless express permission from the COTP has been granted.
- 3) This rule will not apply to moored or anchored vessels within 100 yards of a protected vessel or persons and vessels directly involved in bunkering or transfer operations.

2. All persons & vessels must contact "Houston Traffic" via VHF FM Channel 5A or via phone at (713) 671-5103 to request permission prior to entering the 100-yard security zone around a protected vessel.

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Captain of the Port